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STATE FOR AC/CB, NP/CBM, VC/CCB, L/ACV, IO/S
SECDEF FOR OSD/ISP
JOINT STAFF FOR DD PMA-A FOR WTC
COMMERCE FOR BIS (GOLDMAN)
NSC FOR JOECK
WINPAC FOR LIEPMAN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PARM PREL CWC

SUBJECT: CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC): WEEKLY WRAP-UP

FOR 8 OCTOBER 2004

This is CWC-118-04.

Article VII

¶11. (U) Facilitator Mark Matthews/UK held a 6 October consultation on the recommendations contained in the Second progress Report on the OPCW Plan of Action Regarding the Implementation of Article VII (EC-38/DG.16, 15 September 2004). Delegations welcomed the limited progress made since the last report, but expressed deep concern that States Party (SP) which have yet to meet their obligations will have done so by the CSP-10 deadline. Delegations noted that 20 countries have provided no feedback whatsoever on their status to either the Technical Secretariat (TS) or other SPs.

The U.S. suggested that one way forward would be for the TS to host a brainstorming session to consider how best to approach these states to at least get a sense of their status.

¶12. (U) Delegations requested more TS/SP coordination, viewing the current lack of communication a key issue. Yemen noted that it had asked for TS implementation support last year, but has yet to have any response to its request. The Czech Republic worried that the network of Legal Experts is not being used; Germany also noted that its two legal experts have yet to receive a question. Iran and China noted that they both offered to provide assistance but were excluded from the list of those SPs who offered implementation assistance.

¶13. (U) Delegations were not ready to move forward on the EC recommendations to the Conference. A number of suggestions were made, and the facilitator plans to hold bilateral discussion before drafting a decision document. The Netherlands noted the TS encouragement for SPs to send cost-free experts to relevant regional organizations for implementation support and announced that it will be providing such an expert to the African Group. On the margins, Canada told del rep said it was considering doing the same, perhaps targeting the OECS.

Universality

¶14. (U) Facilitator Hela Lahmar/Tunisia held a 7 October session during which General Chong, the DG's Consultant working on Universality for the Korean Peninsula, presented a general overview of his work the past year, using as his basis for analysis open source material. Delegations welcomed the presentation and asked for paper copies, but were advised that without DG approval, nothing would be provided. Delegations noted the open source nature of the material and vigorously protested.

¶15. (U) In response to delegations' questions, General Chong noted that neither he nor other TS officials have had direct contacts with North Korea since 2001. In advance of the Asian National Authority meeting in Beijing, the DG sent a letter of invitation to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, but no response was received. Huang Yu, director of the External Relations Division, summarized past TS efforts to engage North Korea. Early on, the TS established a dialog with the North Korean mission in Geneva, but this ended in 1999. Chef de Cabinet Rafael Grossi spoke briefly with a North Korean representative on the margins of the UN First Committee meeting last year, but North Korea has refused to accept OPCW materials or meet with OPCW on the margins of other regional meetings. A number of SPs with bilateral relations have included accession to the CWC on their agendas for meetings with senior officials, but no progress has been made.

¶16. (U) Huang updated delegations on ERD's efforts in support of Universality. Much to everyone's surprise, Syria sent a local representative to the Beijing meeting. A joint TS/UK/Japan visit to Cambodia was judged very successful,

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with possible accession by late 2004. A UN-sponsored mission to Myanmar also created momentum, with accession possible in 2005. Bhutan asked for copies of the CWC translated into its native language, a requirement for Assembly consideration of accession. The TS is looking for a translator, and estimates the translation cost will be 7,000 to 11,000 euros. Once this is done, accession will be straightforward, possibly in 2005. Vanuatu indicated that accession may be possible by mid-2005, and Iraq plans to accede as soon as it has an elected government.

17. (U) Finally, the DROC will receive a second TS mission supported by France and Mauritius. The team will brief the DROC Parliament in late 2004. The TS/OECS is jointly sponsoring an implementation workshop and has included invitations to four States not Party from the region. The TS also is participating in UN-sponsored bilateral meetings with the Dominican Republic and Honduras.

18. (U) Javits sends.
SOBEL